

LOWER MAINLAND RINGETTE LEAGUE



Sportsmanlike Play Guiding Principles

The purpose of this document is to establish a resource for team staff that defines and exemplifies the sportsmanship conventions and the traditions of our sport.

Philosophy



The Ringette Philosophy

Ringette is a mass participation team sport that encourages the physical, mental, social, and moral development of individual participants within the highest standards of safety, sportsmanship, personal excellence and enjoyment.

Source: Ringette Canada Official Rules & Case Book 2011-13



Treat opponents and officials with respect in victory and defeat and encourage athletes to act accordingly. Actively encourage athletes to uphold the rules of Ringette and the spirit of such rules.

Source: BC Ringette Coaches Code of Conduct, point 8.



Coaches from opposing teams should work together to ensure the game is fun.

Listen to each others' concerns and compliments.

Ask if the other team had fun. If not, there needs to be a change.

Traditions, Conventions & Guidelines

Fair Play: Play with honor and integrity. Respect your opponents and the officials. Don't break the rules on purpose because you can "get away with it".

Cheering: Recognize great effort, plays or moves on both teams especially goaltenders. Appreciate the effort of all the participants – build confidence and self-esteem.

Be aware of excessive cheering if there is a large goal differential.

Teams should not cheer when a penalty is assessed.

Prevention of injury: Do not play with reckless abandon. Play at the intensity level your physical skills permit. Aggressive play without skill is reckless.

Player Injury: If the play is stopped for a player injury, immediately retreat to your team's bench. When the player stands or is assisted from the ice surface, it is tradition to tap your stick in applause to show concern and support for the injured player.

Accidents Happen: If you commit an error, for example take a minor penalty that may have hurt someone, apologize at the stop of play and ask if they are okay. If you are injured, gracefully accept the apology knowing it was not done in a mean spirited way.

Discrimination (Gender, Racial, Sexual Orientation, etc.): Is not permissible under any circumstances. BCRA has a comprehensive Bullying & Harassment policy, which can be found on page 99 of the BCRA policy manual.

Emotional Stability / Development: Coaches are responsible for the conduct of their players and need to support their emotional development. Coaches should be aware of their team's emotional stability and intervene as required to stabilize the group. Frustrated or angry players need to sit out until they are calm enough to play. Angry outbursts have no place in the sport of vignette.

U7 & U9 Treats: It is tradition in this division for the home team to bring treats to share with the visitors after the game.

Lop-sided Games: In ringette you can only count a maximum seven goal spread. LMRL Policy provides that maximum of a seven goal spread can be posted on the score clock. There are 18 spaces on a score sheet – you should never score so many goals you need a second score sheet.

The losing team can:

- Invoke the BCRA Mercy Rule: When there is a ten point spread, the losing team may elect to go to running time by notifying the official at a stoppage of play.
- Default the game then consult the opposing coach and implement:
 - Shooting on your own goaltender
 - Mixing up the teams so they are more evenly matched. Don't forget to mix up the coaches too!
 - If defaulting in advance, ask permission of the other coach and division manager to bring out stronger players to balance the teams.

The winning team can:

- Switch your players up and give opportunities to your weaker players to excel. Challenge your strong players to refine a specific individual skill.
- Be aware of the goaltenders feelings. These kids are isolated from their team and coaches and can be easily discouraged or humiliated if games are not evenly matched.
- When playing against a team that is substantially weaker, the stronger team should encourage top scorers to earn assists or only shoot a particular way. The stronger team should work on complex plays that will result in errors and turn-overs.

- Be mindful of trapping the defense in their own end. Your team may be passing and controlling the ring but then the poor defense do not have a chance to change. Change your defending style from man-on-man checking to a zone defense on your defending blue line. This gives the losing team a chance to breakout before meeting opposition and allows them to improve. The winning team also gets valuable practice in a controlled environment.